




September 25, 2006

TO: Purchasers of State Timber

FROM: Doug Sutherland, Commissioner of Public Lands 

SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE® Program Certification

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received certification under the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA), Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program in August 2006 for all state forested trust lands in eastern Washington. Coupled with the certification of state forested trust lands in western Washington in March 2005, all state forested trust lands are now SFI® Program certified under the 2005-2009 standard.

The SFI® Program is a certification program developed by AF&PA in 1994 for landowners and managers that qualify as practicing stewards of sustainable forestry. This certification recognizes that the management of all state forested trust lands by the DNR is sustainable and environmentally sound.

All timber purchased after September 13th, for the DNR's eastside program are SFI® Program certified. What does this mean for the purchaser of timber from state trust lands? SFI® Program Certification creates the potential for a broader range of markets. The certification allows purchasers and manufacturers of lumber from the timber certified under the SFI® Program the opportunity to participate in those markets. A growing number of U.S. paper and wood products retailers and homebuilders are adopting written policies favoring wood supplies from sustainable managed forests. Most of those policies contain inclusive measures to accept SFI® Program certified wood, and retailers are marketing this stewardship and sustainability to their customers. Examples of inclusive retailers include: Lowes, Home Depot, Staples, Office Depot, Kinkos, Xerox, AOL/Time Warner, Lonoga (Lumbermans), Centex and many others.

The SFI® Program certification provides an additional degree of certainty to you, as purchasers of state timber sales, regarding the sustainability of wood purchased from both western and eastern Washington state trust lands now and into the future. In addition, SFI® Program training is available to you and your contractors. We encourage your companies to participate in this training.

The Department is developing comprehensive information about the SFI® Program Certification which will be located on the agency's web page in the near future.

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE® AND SFI® Program Certification are service marks owned by the American Forest and Paper Association. Additional information is available at <http://www.aboutsfi.org>.

